

School of Accounting and Commercial Law

**MMPA 509 TAXATION**

Trimester 3, 2011

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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<b>Names and Contact Details</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
<i>Course Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i> Andrew Smith <a href="mailto:Andrew.Smith@vuw.ac.nz">Andrew.Smith@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office Hours: TBA	RH 620	463 6707
<i>Lecturer</i> Kevin Holmes <a href="mailto:Kevin.Holmes@vuw.ac.nz">Kevin.Holmes@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office Hours: TBA	RH 618	463 5968
<i>Course Administrator</i> Pinky Shah <a href="mailto:Pinky.Shah@vuw.ac.nz">Pinky.Shah@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm	RH 728	463 6921

**Trimester Dates**

Teaching Period:  
Monday 14 November 2011 to Friday 2 March 2012.

Examination Period:  
None.

**Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 25 November 2011.
2. The last date for withdrawal from this course is the three-quarter point of the teaching period, i.e. Friday 20 January 2012.

After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

## **Class Times and Room Numbers**

Combined Lecture/Seminar Tuesdays 4.40pm to 7.30pm in RWW 413

There are 12 classes scheduled for the whole course. It is essential that students are able to attend all classes.

## **Course Content**

This course is designed to provide an in-depth examination of key aspects of New Zealand's tax regime from a domestic and international perspective. The impact of taxation on business decisions in New Zealand is also examined.

Details of the lecture programme are provided in a table at the end of this Course Outline.

## **Course Learning Objectives**

Students who are successful in the course will be able to:

- (a) Have an understanding of the key parts of New Zealand's public finance and key policy issues;
- (b) Understand and apply the basic principles of income tax law in New Zealand;
- (c) Determine the tax liability for a sole trader, partnership and company;
- (d) Understand how income tax is administered in New Zealand including compliance obligations of taxpayers;
- (e) Understand how taxation impacts on business decision making and how transactions can be arranged legally to minimise a tax liability including ethical issues.
- (f) Have an understanding of the implications of cross-border transactions and investment.

## **Course Delivery**

Each 3 hour class will involve a mixture of lectures, class discussions and problem based assignments. A break will be scheduled approximately midway through each class.

From time to time lecturers may specify required reading prior to a lecture. It is essential that students do this preparatory reading as the lectures will be run at a level that assumes some prior knowledge.

## **Expected Workload**

Students will be expected to spend 15 hours each week on this course including a three hour class each week.

## **Group Work**

While some of the classes will involve group work, none of the assessed pieces of work in this course are based on group work. The Assignment must be sole work of each student. *Any student who submits an Assignment for grading which contains evidence of plagiarism will be subject to the University's disciplinary procedures in addition to the penalties explained later in this Course Outline.*

## Readings

The following textbook and materials are required for this course:

1. Alley et. al., *New Zealand Taxation 2011: Principles, Cases and Questions*, Thomson Brookers, Wellington, 2011. (The 2010 editions of this text would suffice for this year's course.)
2. *New Zealand Taxation 2011 Legislation Handbook*, Thomson Brookers, Wellington, 2011. Alternatively you can use the *CCH New Zealand Income Tax Legislation 2011*.
3. Handouts distributed in lectures and/or posted on *Blackboard*.

The Thomson Brookers publications listed in (1) and (2) above may be purchased as a set at a discount.

In addition there are the following resources which you may wish to refer to if you wish to find out more about a particular topic:

1. *CCH New Zealand Master Tax Guide 2011*, CCH New Zealand Limited, Auckland 2010. (Law Library, KUQ2832 A13 N532 - some copies on Closed Reserve)
2. *New Zealand Income Tax Law & Practice* in 5 volumes, by David H. Simcock and John F.S. Rooke with the CCH tax editors. Loose-leaf service. (KUQ2832 N532 1986 - on Closed Reserve in the Law Library.)
3. *CCH New Zealand Online Library* -access through MyVictoria (VUW Homepage → Log on to MyVictoria → Library Tab → Library Online Resources → Box 'C' → CCH New Zealand Online Library → Log On → Tax)

Students are permitted to take income tax legislation into the Mid-Trimester Test and Final Test and these assessments will be set assuming that students have access to their income tax legislation. To ensure that you can use your legislation in the Mid-Trimester Test and Final Test, please note the following:

1. Your legislation must not contain any additional writing or notes (other than your name) -the legislation must be "clean" as it was when it was newly printed. It is, however, permissible to emphasis text in your legislation by underlining or using coloured highlighter pens.
2. The indexing of your legislation whether by tabs, the use of "Post-it" notes or any other means is prohibited.
3. Your legislation will be checked at the beginning of the Mid-Trimester Test and Final Test for compliance with these conditions.
4. Any student who does not have tax legislation to use in the tests because his/her text did not meet the above conditions or the student forgot to bring their legislation will **not** be able to borrow a replacement copy from the examiners or to share a copy with another student.

## Materials and Equipment

Apart from the course texts, other handouts will be provided in lecture classes. If you are missing any of these, please contact the Course Administrator Pinky Shah.

Electronic calculators and non-electronic foreign language dictionaries may be used in the Mid-Trimester Test and Final Test. Calculators must be battery powered and silent in operation. Calculators with alphanumeric keyboards and programming functions will not be permitted. If you are in doubt, check with the Course Coordinator.

## **Assessment Requirements**

Mid-Trimester Test (75 mins)	20%	Tuesday 20 December 2011 at 4.40pm
Assignment	15%	Due: 12 noon, Monday, 13 February 2012
Final Test (2 hours)	65%	Tuesday, 28 February 2012 at 4.40pm

The topics to be covered in the Mid-Trimester Test and Final Test will be advised in class prior to each assessment.

### ***Quality Assurance Note***

*Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.*

### **Penalties**

A penalty will apply to any Assignment submitted late without a special dispensation. The penalty will be 10% of the mark awarded for each day it is late. Any Assignment submitted for grading which contains evidence of plagiarism will receive no credit (i.e. a NIL mark) and the student submitting the work may be subject to further disciplinary action by the University.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

In order to pass this course, students must complete and submit for grading the course Assignment *and* sit *both* the Mid-Trimester Test and Final Test.

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

### **Communication of Additional Information**

Any additional information or information on changes will be advised to students through Blackboard and at lecture classes. Student should ensure that they regularly check their Blackboard account for any new announcements.

### **Use of Turnitin**

Student work submitted for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

**For the following important information follow the links provided:**

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

**General University Policies and Statutes**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study)

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>

The University's statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx)

**AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

**Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

**Te Putahi Atawhai**

**Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/tpa/index.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index.aspx)

**Course Lecture Programme:**

Details of the Course Lecture Programme are on the following page. Please note the following points about this Lecture Programme arising after the Mid-Trimester (Christmas/New Year) Break:

- The first lecture class after the break will be held on Tuesday 10 January.
- There will be no lecture scheduled for the following week on 17 January.
- The assignment is due by 12 noon on Monday 13 February.
- The final lecture for the course will be held on Wednesday 22 February at 4.40pm, *not* Tuesday 21 February in **RWW 125**.
- The Final Test is scheduled for Tuesday, 28 February at 4.40pm.

## MMPA 509 LECTURE PROGRAMME

Week	Class Date	Staff	Topics	
1	15 November	AS	Introduction to Taxation Income Tax Act 2007 and the Core Provisions	
2	22 November	AS	Common Law Concepts of Income Income from a Business	
3	29 November	AS	Income From Employment Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)	
4	6 December	AS	Personal Property Sales and Land Sales	
5	13 December	AS	Deductions	
6	20 December	AS	<b>Revision Class and Mid-Trimester Test - 4.40pm</b>	
<b>Mid-Trimester (Christmas/New Year) Break (21 December 2011 – 8 January 2012)</b>				
7	10 January	KH	Special Deductions (Depreciation and Trading Stock) Taxation of Companies	
	17 January	<i>No Class this week</i>		
8	24 January	KH	Taxation of Companies (contd)	
9	31 January	KH	Taxation of Trusts and Partnerships	
10	7 February	KH		
<b>Assignment Due: 12 noon Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>				
11	14 February	KH	Tax Planning and Avoidance	
12	22 February (Wednesday)	KH	Elements of GST	

AS = Associate Prof Andrew Smith

KH = Professor Kevin Holmes

Note: This Lecture Programme is intended to give a general guide as to the timing of the various topics, however, some topics may take more or less time to cover than is indicated above.